IN THE SPECIFICATION

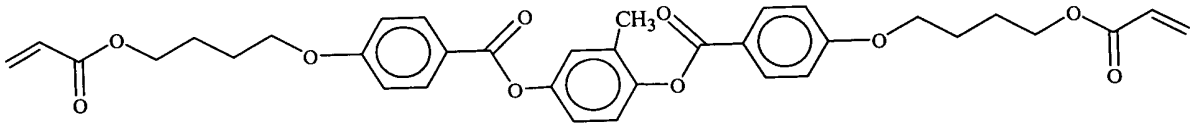
Please replace the paragraph on page 47, lines 36-42 with the following paragraphs:

The pulse energy was controlled with a polarizer and half-wave plate. The pump beam was focused on the sample using a f = 20 cm, 2.5 cm diameter lens, the beam diameter at the sample was 300 μm. The emitted light was collected and focused to the entrance slit of a TRIAX 550 (Jovin Yvon-Spex) spectrometer. The emission was recorded with an i-Spectrum One intensified CCD (JovinYvon-Spex) detector, operated in the continuous mode. The samples showed, under ps excitation at 532 nm, fluorescence line narrowing as function of pump pulse energy. Lasing was observed above a pump threshold of approx. 280 μJ. By appling a biaxial distortion to the sample, it was possible to shift the laser emission wavelength in a range between 544 and 630 nm. Observed line widths was approx. 3.5 Å.

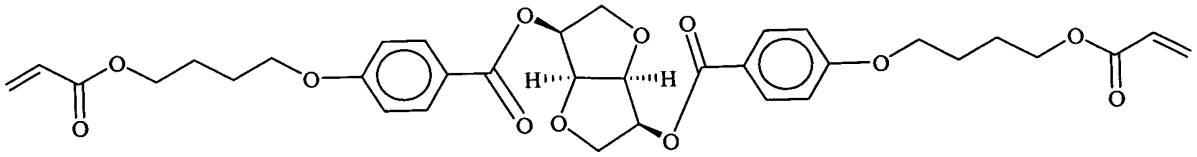
Example 2

Similar experiments as in example 1 were carried out on a different cholesteric layer.

The cholesteric layer of example 2 was prepared from a solution of 94,3 wt/% of archiral nematic monomers of formula



and 3,9 wt/% of chiral monomers of formula



dissolved in THF, further including 1,5 wt/% photoinitiator (IG 184, Ciba-Geigy) and 0,3 wt/% DCM.

The solvent was evaporated and the mixture was placed at 65 °C between two polyimide coated glass plates having a clearance of 15 μm. The sample was kept at 65 °C for

30 minutes to allow for the development a planar texture of the cholesteric phase. Subsequently, polymerization was initiated. A defect free cholesteric network having a reflection band at 580 nm is thus obtained.